

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 OPORTO 00005 061554Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OPR-02 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 /069 W  
----- 122733

R 060830Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL OPORTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 772

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO, MILI

SUBJECT: NEW YEARS WEEK IN THE NORTH: MORE CONFRONTATION

1. SUMMARY: NEW YEARS WEEK DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NORTH FOCUSED AROUND JAN 1 ATTEMPTED ASSAULT AT CUSTOIAS PRISON AND SERVED TO FURTHER POLARIZE SENTIMENTS LEADING TO RENEWED VIOLENCE. LEFTIST INSTALLATIONS WERE TARGETS FOR GUNFIRE IN BRAGA. FIRST VICTIMS OF CUSTOIAS ASSAULT WERE BURIED IN OPORTO WITH FULL COMMUNIST (PCP) HONORS WHICH TRIGGERED SCUFFLES WITH ANTI-COMMUNIST HECKLERS. END SUMMARY.

2. BRAGA HIGH NOON. UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS USED AUTOMATIC WEAPONS IN THREE SEPARATE INCIDENTS BEFORE DAWN JAN 3. THEY SHOT UP A LEFTIST BOOKSHOP, FIRED AT POPULAR DEMOCRATIC UNION (UDP) OFFICES, AND MACHINE-GUNNED A CAR JUST PURCHASED FROM DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP/CDE) MILITANT. NO INJURIES WERE REPORTED.

3. OPORTO STREET FIGHTING. SCUFFLING BROKE OUT JAN 4 AT OPORTO STADIUM AFTER SOCCER MATCH. ATTEMPTS BY CIVILIAN AND MILITARY POLICE TO RESTORE ORDER WERE GREETED WITH VOLLEY OF STONES WHICH FELL, AMONG OTHERS, OPORTO CHIEF OF POLICE. FISTS AND BOTTLES  
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PAGE 02 OPORTO 00005 061554Z

ALSO FLEW DURING JAN 5 FUNERAL PROCESSION OF CUSTOIAS CASUALTY

WHEN COMMUNIST MARCHERS FOUGHT ANTI-COMMUNIST HECKLERS.

4. CUSTOIAS PRISON ASSAULT. AT LEAST THREE MORE PEOPLE WERE REPORT-  
EDLY TREATED FOR WOUNDS RECEIVED DURING NEW YEARS DAY  
ATTEMPTED ASSAULT ON CUSTOIAS PRISON. ONE OF THOSE ALREADY  
HOSPITALIZED DIED JAN 3 BRINGING DEATH TOLL TO FOUR. THERE IS  
MOUNTING EVIDENCE THAT SMALL GROUP OF ARMED INDIVIDUALS HAD  
MINGLED WITH LEFTIST CROWD OF SEVERAL THOUSAND OUTSIDE PRISON  
WALLS WITH EXPRESS PURPOSE OF PROVOKING CUSTOIAS ASSAULT. AT  
LEAST ONE OF THE INJURED WAS WOUNDED BY PISTOL SHOT. ASSAULT  
ALSO COINCIDED WITH ACTION OF SOME IMPRISONED LEFTIST MILITARY  
WHO TEMPORARILY SUCCEEDED IN BREAKING OUT OF THEIR CELLS ACCORD-  
ING TO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRISON AUTHORITIES. OPORTO'S  
CENTER DAILY, "COMERCIO DO PORTO", REPORTS JAN 6 THAT SOME DE-  
MONSTRATORS WERE PAID TO PARTICIPATE IN JAN 1 CUSTOIAS MELEE.

5. LEFTIST REACTION. AFTER HESITATING A DAY, LOCAL COMMUNISTS  
(PCP) HAVE EMBRACED FIRST TWO PORTUGUESE CASUALTIES AT CUSTOIAS  
AS THEIR OWN MILITANTS. FUNERALS WERE CONDUCTED JAN 4 AND 5  
WITH FULL PCP HONORS, INCLUDING FLAG-DRAPED CASKETS AND REPETIT-  
ATIVE SINGING OF INTERNATIONALE. SOME TWO THOUSAND ATTENDED EACH  
DAY. PCP HERE IS NOW MORE DIRECTLY BEHIND EFFORTS BY LEFT-  
LINING ORGANIZATIONS TO EFFECT RELEASE OF NOV 25 MILITARY  
DETAINEES. LOCAL COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED METALLURGICAL UNION  
HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED THAT NOV 25 WAS "RIGHTIST COUP" AND  
DEMANDED IMMEDIATE DISARMING OF POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARD (GNR).

6. PREDICTIONS OF VIOLENCE. LEADING OPORTO MEMBER OF SOCIAL  
DEMOCRATIC CENTER PARTY (CDS) TOLD ME JAN 5 THAT HIS PARTY FEARED  
COMMUNIST ATTACKS ON CDS LOCAL OFFICES IN REPETITION OF LAST SPRING.  
"COMERCIO DO PORTO" ALSO PUBLISHED YEAR END FRONT PAGE REPORT  
ENTITLED "THE LEFT IS MANIPULATING REFUGEES IN THE NORTH".  
REPORT ALLEGES THAT LEFTISTS ARE PREPARING JANUARY COUP UNDER  
COVER OF CIVIL DISORDERS CAUSED BY REFUGEES. IN INTERVIEW WITH CO-  
MERCIO EDITOR, EX-PRESIDENT SPINOLA MAINTAINS THAT  
COMMUNISTS STILL REPRESENT CONSIDERABLE THREAT. HE SUGGESTS NOV  
25 COUP ATTEMPT WAS ENGINEERED BY PCP TO GET RID OF ULTRA-FAR LEFT.

7. COMMENT: ALL INDICATIONS POINT TO RENEWED CON-  
FRONTATION. WHILE LOCAL SENTIMENT CONTINUES TO RUN STRONGLY AGAINST  
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PAGE 03 OPORTO 00005 061554Z

COMMUNISTS, I FEEL COMMUNISTS WILL TRY TO KEEP ECONOMY ON THE DOWN  
SLIDE  
PARTICULARLY USING WHAT CONTROL THEY RETAIN IN THE UNIONS.  
PENNER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL DISORDERS, TERRORISTS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 JAN 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
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